

2004, the Examiner advised Applicant's attorney that he had reviewed the substitute specification and formal drawings and forwarded same for entry. Applicant respectfully requests written confirmation of entry and consideration of such formal amendments/papers under 37 C.F.R. § 1.312.

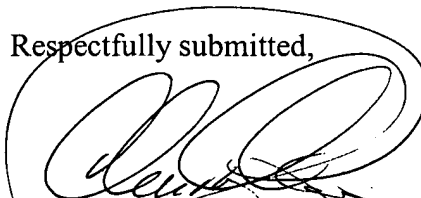
COMMENTS REGARDING STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's Statement and notes the reasons for allowance of the independent claims includes asserted teachings of the Aoshima '066 patent that merely paraphrase the claim language of, e.g., Claim 1, of the present application, together with an acknowledgment that the Aoshima '066 patent fails to disclose various features, which paraphrase the last one or two of each respective independent claim. Applicant objects to the Statement to the extent that it characterizes the teachings of the Aoshima '066 patent using the claim language recited in the present claims, and to the extent that it fails to acknowledge Applicant's claim to the novel combination of each of the features variously recited in each of the respective independent claims in the present application.

Further, Applicant submits that each of the dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim and is allowable for the same reasons as its independent base claim and in its own right for reciting a novel combination of features neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Wrist", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is enclosed within a large, hand-drawn oval.

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